

REMARKS

Claims 29-33 are pending and stand rejected after the Final OA. Claims 29-30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shrader *et al.*, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0077887, hereinafter SHRADER. Claims 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranor *et al.*, “Design and Implementation of a Practical Security-Conscious Electronic Polling System” (1996), hereinafter “CRANOR,” in view of SHRADER.

Interview Summary. On October 5, 2006, the undersigned and Mr. Tom Corrado of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP participated in an interview with Examiner Jarrett. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for his time and insight. During the interview, the undersigned presented the following information.

Each pending claim relates to a method for **verifying** a cast ballot. **Verifying**, as an activity in the application, while it requires preparation and participation by an embodiment of the invention, is initiated by a user after obtaining a confirmation token prepared by an embodiment of the invention:

[0004] ... “verifiability” (everyone should be able to verify their own ballot ...

[0060] Descriptors 71 and 73 illustrate what is known as individual verifiability¹ ...

*[0019] ... the terms “individual”, “user”, “client”, and “voter” are used interchangeably, and refer to a **person** ...*

The written description discloses a vote serial number (VSN) that:

*[0054] ... can be like a ballot serial number and can be an arbitrary number that goes from one to infinity; it can be generated per election, and **has no relationship to the voter**, and is just an incidental sequence number that indicates a vote delivered in the election.*

¹ “Individual” verifiability is what is claimed in Claims 29 and 33. The other sort of verifiability is “universal” and does not require a confirmation token.

Neither SHRADER nor CRANOR discloses associating a cast ballot B_{cast} (actual votes) with a vote serial number (VSN) having no relationship with the voter. Nor do those references disclose using such VSN in a confirmation token in the fashion claimed in the pending application. In fact, SHRADER **teaches away** from this approach:

[0063] ... The verification message does not contain the actual votes from the ballot, since the voting must be anonymous.

The claims have been amended to explicitly state that the methods are for assisting a user in verifying a cast ballot. As before, the claims recite the use of a VSN associated with the cast ballot.

In light of the information exchanged during the interview and the present amendment, the pending rejections may be moot, and hence were not explicitly addressed during the interview.

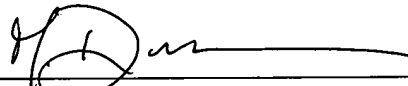
CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the OA mailed 07/11/2006 . With consideration of the above remarks directed to the rejections, the undersigned submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with the undersigned, in person or over the telephone, we would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1458, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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